

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00043 050547Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5422
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, TC
SUBJ: UAE FORMS NEW CABINET

REF: ABU DHABI 006

1. SUMMARY: NEW UAE CABINET ANNOUNCED EARLY MORNING JANUARY 4. NEW CABINET HAS 23 PORTFOLIOS WITH SEVERAL NEW FACES INCLUDING USAE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON SAID GHUBBASH WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF PLANNING. NEW CABINET IS ESSENTIALLY A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED TO REDUCE FORMER UNWIELDLY FEDERAL CABINET OF 29 TO ONE COMPOSED OF 16 PORTFOLIOS STAFFED BY EDUCATED AND DEVOTED CIVIL SERVANTS AND THOSE FAVORING REPRESENTATION FROM TRADITIONAL GROUPS. ALL EMIRATES HAVE AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH ABU DHABI AND DUBAI, LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL, SIX EACH. END
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SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EXTENDED PERIOD OF CONSULTATIONS OVER PERIOD OF FIVE WEEKS, NEW UAE FEDERAL CABINET WAS FINALLY ANNOUNCED IN EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 4. IN DECREE ISSUED BY UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID AND RELEASED BY PRIME MINISTER MAKTUM BIN RASHID AL MAKTUM, APPOINTMENTS TO FOLLOWING

23 CABINET PORTFOLIOS ARE LISTED:

- (A) PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH MAKTUM BIN RASHID
 AL-MAKTUM (FROM DUBAI)
- (B) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH HAMDAN BIN MUHAMMAD
 AL NAHAYAN (FROM ABU DHABI)
- (C) FINANCE AND INDUSTRY SHAIKH HAMDAN BIN RASHID
 AL MAKTUM (FROM DUBAI)
- (D) PUBLIC WORKS AND MUHAMMAE KHALIFA AL KINDI (FROM
HOUSING ABU DHABI)
- (E) INFORMATION AND SHAIKH AHMAD BIN HAMID
CULTURE (FROM SHARJA)
- (F) INTERIOR SHAIKH MUBARAK BIN MUHAMMAD
 AL NAHAYAN (FROM ABU DHABI)
- (G) DEFENSE SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN RASHID
 AL MAKTUM (FROM DUBAI)
- (H) FOREIGN AFFAIRS AHMAD KHALIFA AL SUWAIDI
 (FROM ABU DHABI)
- (I) ECONOMY AND TRADE SHAIKH SULTAN BIN AHMAD AL
 MU'ALLA (FROM UMM AL QAIWAIN)

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- (J) HEALTH KHALFAN AL RUMI (FROM SHARJA)
- (K) LABOR AND SOCIAL ABDALLAH AGUMAZRU'I
WCFAIRS (FROM AJMAN)
- (L) EDUCATION AND YOUTH ABDULLAH BIN UMRAN TARIYAM
 (FROM SHARJAH)
- (M) PETROLEUM AND MINERAL DR. MANA' BIN SA'ID AL UTAYBA
RESERVES (FROM ABU DHABI)
- (N) COMMUNICATIONS MUHAMMAD SA'ID AL-MULLA (FROM DUBAI)
- (O) ELECTRICITY
P AKND WATER THANI BIN 'SSA BIN HAARIB (FROM
 AJMAN)
- (P) JUSTICE, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD ABD AL RAHMAN AL BAKR
AND WAQFS (FROM RAS AL KHAIMAH)
- (Q) AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SA'ID AL RAQBANI (FROM FUJAIRAH)

- (4) PLANNING SA'ID GHUBBASH (FROM RAS AL KHAIMAH)
- (S) MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHAIKH ABD AL AZIZ BIN HAMIID
SUPREME COUNCIL AFFAIRS AL QASIMI (FROM RAS AL-KHAIMAH)
- (T) MINISTER OF STATE FOR HAMMUDAH BIN AL
INTERIOR AFFAIRS (FROM ABU DHABI)
- (U) MINISTER OF STATE FOR SAIF SAID GHUBBASH (FROM
FOREIGN AFFAIRS RAS AL KHAIMAH)
- (V) MINISTER OF STATE FOR SA'ID AL GHAITH
CABINET AFFAIRS (FROM DUBDS)
- (W) MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD BINSULTAN AL QASIMI
(FROM SHARJAH)
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3. THIS IS THIRD UAE CABINET SINCE UAE BECAME A FEDERATION IN DECEMBER 1971 AND THIS CABINET IS SMALLER THAN ITS PREDECESSOR WHICH NUMBERED 29. THIS WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY COMBINING EIGHT MINISTRIES INTO FOUR (PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING, EDUCATION AND YOUTH, JUSTICE AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND WAQFS, AND LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS) AND ELIMINATING PORTFOLIO HELD BY MUHAMMAD HABRUSH AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (WHO WAS DROPPED FROM NEW CABINET) AS WELL AS POSITION OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AFFAIRS.

4. NEW CABINET BRINGS IN SIX NEW FACES, BEST KNOWN OF WHOM FOR DEPARTMENT IS UAE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON SAID GHUBBASH WHO HAS BEEN NAMED TO BE MINISTER OF PLANNING. OTHER NEW FACES ARE ABDALLAH MAZRU'I (FORMER UNDERSECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS); MUHAMMAD ABD AL RAHMAN AL BDR (FORMER HEAD OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTANCY CHAMBER WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND WAQFS); KHALFAN AL RUMI (FORMERLY UNDER SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF HEALTH); SA'ID AL RAQBANI (FORMER MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FROM FUJAIRAH WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES); AND ABD AL AZIZ BIN HAMID AL QASIMI (FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF SUPREME COUNCIL AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR SUPREME COUNCIL AFFAIRS VICE SHAIKH ABD AL MALIK QAID AL QASIMI).

5. CABINET ALSO INCLUDES FOUR FORMER MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO NEW PORTFOLIOS: SHAIKH HAMDAN BIN MUHAMMAD (FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO NOW BECOMES DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VICE SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYID WHO KEEPS HIS POSITION AS DEPUTY

COMMANDER UAE DEFENSE FORCES); MUHAMMAD KHALIFA AL KINDI (FORMERLY MINISTER OF PLANNING WHO NOW BECOMES MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING); THANI BIN ISSA BIN HAARIB (FORMERLY MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND WAQFS WHO NOW BECOMES MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER); AND SA5 8\$ AL GHAITH (FORMERLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AFFAIRS AND NOW MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS). IN ADDITION MIN. EDUCATION UMRAN TARIYAM HAS NOW TAKEN OVER FORMER MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS.

6. CABINET IS ESSENTIALLY QJ COMPROMISE BETWEEN UAE PRESIDENT ZAYID AND DUBAI RULER SHAIKH RASHID OR BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED TO SEE A SMALLER CABINET OF ABOUT 16 PORTFOLIOS STAFFED WITH EDUCATED AND DEDICATED CIVIL SERVANTS WHO IDENTIFY WITH UAE AS ONE COUNTRY AND THOSE WHO WANTED TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUPS TO CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED (SEE REFTEL). ON WHOLE, HOWEVER, NEW CABINET IS A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT. IN ADDITION TO NEW FACES NOTED ABOVE WHO REPRESENT YOUNGER GENERATION THAT IDENTIFIES WITH UAE, MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE REMOVAL OF SHAIKH HAMDAN AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHO IS KICKED UPSTAIRS AS DEPUTY PM, AND HIS BROTHER SHAIKH SAIF AS MINISTER OF HEALTH. HAMDAN'S MINISTER HOGY BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH A GOOD DEAL OF QUESTIONABLE MIDDLEMAN OPERATIONS AND SAID, THOUGH WELL MEANING, PROVED TO BE INEFFECTUAL. ON OTHER HAND, MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED, REMAINS BUT IS HARD TO SEE HOW NEW MINISTER, WHO IS SPECIALIST IN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, CAN HANDLE MINISTRY WHICH BADLY NEEDS COMPETENT TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT.

7. AS IN PREVIOUS TWO CABINETS, ALL EMIRATES HAD AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH LARGEST NUMBER GOING TO WEALTHIEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL EMIRATES. NEW CABINET INCLUDES SIX FROM ABU DHABI AND SIX FROM DUBAI, FOUR FROM SHARJA, THREE FROM RAS AL-KHAIMAH, TWO FROM AJMAN AND ONE EACH FROM UMM AL QAIWAIN AND FUJAIRAH. DICKMAN.

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